Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 08706 081358Z

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CONFIDENTIALEC BRUSSELS 8706

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EEC XA
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION EXPRESSES DESIRE TO COORDINATE WITH
US IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICIES.

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 3514, (B) MAPUTO 1017 (NOTAL)

1. COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS, MAURICE FOLEY, RAISED WITH MISSION OFFICER THE EC COMMISSION'S DESIRE TO CONSULT WITH US ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. FOLEY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ASST. SECRETARY SCHAUFELE OR OTHER APPROPRIATE US OFFICIALS WOULD STOP IN BRUSSELS IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR NEXT TRIP TO AFRICA TO DISCUSS SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. 2. FOLEY NOTED THAT THROUGH THE LOME CONVENTION THE EC HAS AN INFLUENTIAL ROLE WITH THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES. IN FACT, COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI PLANS TO ATTEND THE TENTH YEAR INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION OF BOTSWANA AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER AT WHICH TIME ORTOLI PLANS TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH THE LEADERS OF MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA, TANZANIA AND ANGOLA AS WELL AS BOTSWANA. FOLEY SAID HE ASSUMED THE US WOULD ALSO BE SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL. FOLEY WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAS TALKED TO LEADERS OF MOZAMBIQUE REGARDING POSSIBLE ASSOCIATION WITH EC AS MEMBER OF LOME CONVENTION. COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON ALSO RECENTLY PAID A VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE CONFIDENTIAL. CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 EC BRU 08706 081358Z

(SEE REFTELS). SHOULD NAMBIA EVENTUALLY ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE, AND ASSUMING THAT THE ACP COUNTRIES AGREE, THE EC WOULD PLAN

ON ALSO OFFERING LOME CONVENTION ASSOCIATION TO IT.

3. MISSION OFFICER NOTED TO FOLEY THAT THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND EC FOREIGN MINISTERS (THROUGH EC PRESIDENCY COUNTRY) WERE THE PRINCIPAL CHANNELS FOR CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH EC ON POLITICAL COOPERATION MATTERS. FOLEY AGREED, BUT EMPHASIZED AGAIN THE UNIQUE RELATIONS THE COMMISSION HAS WITH THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF ITS ROLE IN ADMINISTERING THE LOME CONVENTION.

4. COMMENT: THE EC COMMISSION IS ALWAYS ANXIOUS TO BE INCLUDED IN ANY FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING EC RELATIONS IN AFRICA. ITS ROLE, HOWEVER, IS CLEARLY UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS. NEVERTHELESS, THE COMMISSION DOES HAVE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES THROUGH THE LOME CONVENTION AND CONSULTATION WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS COULD WELL BE A USEFUL AND POTENTIALLY INSTRUCTIVE MEANS OF FURTHERING OUR OBJECTIVES.HINTON

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